



PERSONAL ROBBERY PREVENTION

Chesterfield County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (804) 318 - 8699

Unfortunately, while going through your daily activities and routines, there is always a risk that you could become a victim of a crime. Criminals are opportunists and always look to take advantage of persons or situations. A moment's inattention can have great consequences. Following the enclosed guidelines can help reduce your risk of being victimized by a criminal. Remember that if you are robbed, the police are here to help you. We can not help you if you do not call us!

When You Are Out

- Never carry large amounts of cash or multiple credit cards with you. Carry only the amount of money needed and do not display your cash. If an individual notices that you carry a lot of cash, you may be targeted for robbery.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dark, isolated areas. Do not take shortcuts through isolated areas or through shrubbery where criminals can hide.
- Walk with confidence, constantly scanning your environment. If you see a suspicious person, look at him so he knows you have noticed and can describe him. Pay attention to appearance, clothing and mannerisms because you may have to describe them later.
- Walk in open, well lit areas and away from shrubbery, alcoves, building recesses, blind corners and other hiding places.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person is still there, move quickly toward a busy, well lit area such as a store, restaurant or other public place.
- Avoid being outside, especially alone, late at night when and where there are few people around. Criminals feel more comfortable operating in environments with little visibility and few people.
- When walking on a street or sidewalk, walk facing traffic. Doing so prevents someone from driving up behind you without being detected.



In Your Vehicle

- Keep your vehicle in good running condition and full of gas.

- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up when traveling.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended and running even if you are only away for a short time. Always lock your vehicle when you leave it.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Park in well lit, high traffic areas that have good visibility.
- When approaching your vehicle, have your key ready. Check the area around your vehicle for suspicious individuals. Do not approach it if you do not feel comfortable. Call the police to report suspicious people and activity.
- Check to see that no one is in your back seat prior to entering your vehicle.

If You Are Robbed

- Comply with the robber and give him what he wants. Never fight or resist as this can escalate the situation.
- Know where there are escape routes and get help quickly.
- Pay attention to the robber's physical appearance, clothes and mannerisms so you can describe them to the police.
- Once the robber leaves, call the police immediately by dialing 911. Be ready to give a detailed description of the robber, direction he fled, vehicle description and license plate number. Try to get license plate numbers without putting yourself in danger.

